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LEDDBURY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR THE YEAR

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LEDBURY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1957, furnished in accordance with Article 17, sub-section 5, of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, and Circular 1/58 of the Ministry of Health.

I have to acknowledge assistance in the preparation of this Report and throughout the year by my colleagues, Mr.D.B.W. Dykes, Clerk to the Council; Mr.A.T. Thomas, Financial Officer; Mr. J.F. Lorrimer, Public Health Inspector and Surveyor; and Mr. K. Mills, Executive Officer.

Also, I take this opportunity of placing on record my appreciation of the support which the Chairman and Members of the Council have given me in the discharge of my duties.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

*William Hogg*

Medical Officer of Health.

28th August, 1958.



LEDBURY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

STAFF OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

William Hogg, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H., F.R.S.I.

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SECTION A - STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

The Urban District of Ledbury forms a small town in the south east of the County. It is a centre for the surrounding agricultural district, and the town is on the main line of the railway connecting Hereford with Birmingham and Worcester. Industries in the town are agricultural engineering, printing and fruit preservation. Catering for visitors also provides some employment.

Area (in acres)	...	499
Number of inhabited houses (31.12.57).	...	1168
Rateable Value	...	£25,500
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	£154.19.6.
Registrar General's estimated mid-year Population.	...	3710
Area Comparability Factor (Births)	...	0.99
Area Comparability Factor (Deaths)	...	0.83

Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year

Live Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population (crude)	...	15.4
Adjusted Live Birth Rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population	...	15.2
Still Birth Rate per 1000 total births (live and still)	...	65.6
Death Rate per 1000 estimated resident population (crude)	...	12.4
Corrected Death Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population	...	10.3

Deaths from Maternal Causes

Heading No.30	Pregnancy, childbirth, and abortion.	<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Rate per 1000 total births</u>
		Nil	Nil

Death Rates of Infants under One Year of Age

All Infants per 1000 live births	...	17.5
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	...	18.9
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	...	Nil



## Population

The Registrar General's estimate of the resident mid-year population is 3710. Using the estimated resident population, the average number of persons per inhabited house is 3.18, and the average number of persons per acre is 7.4. The average number of inhabited houses per acre is 2.33. The natural increase of population, that is the excess of live births over deaths is eleven.

## Live Births

The total number of live births recorded as having occurred within the District is 57 (30 male and 27 female). The crude birth rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population is 15.4, and using the comparability factor of 0.99 the adjusted birth rate is 15.2 per 1000 estimated resident population. The ratio of male/female births is 1.11.

The live birth rate for England and Wales for 1957 is 16.1 per 1000 population.

Four births occurred out of wedlock. Illegitimate live births formed 7% of all live births; the illegitimate live birth rate being 1.0 per 1000 estimated population.

## Stillbirths

Four stillbirths occurred (3 male and 1 female) and the stillbirth rate is 65.6 per 1000 total (live and still) births. The stillbirth rate for the year for England and Wales is 22.4 per 1000 live and still births. In the previous year 5 stillbirths were registered.

## Deaths

After deducting the deaths of non-residents who died within the area, and adding the number of deaths of residents who died outside the area, the total number of deaths allocated to the Urban District is 46 (29 male and 17 female). In 1956 there were 57 deaths.

The crude death rate for the area is 12.4 per 1000 estimated resident population. Using the area comparability factor of 0.83 the corrected death rate is 10.3 per 1000 resident population. The death rate for the year for England and Wales is 11.5 per 1000 population.

All forms of heart disease (headings 18 and 20) caused 9 deaths.

## Cancer Deaths

The number of deaths caused by cancer of all sites is 7 (4 male and 3 female), giving a corrected death rate for all forms of cancer of 1.56 per 1000 estimated population. In 1956 there were 5 cancer deaths.

## Deaths due to Notifiable Acute Infectious Disease

Pneumonia was the only acute notifiable disease attributed as a cause of death, three deaths being attributed to this disease.



Tuberculosis

No deaths were attributed to tuberculosis. The tuberculosis death rate for England and Wales for the year was 0.107 per 1000 population. In 1956 one death was attributed to tuberculosis in the Urban District.

Infant Mortality

Unfortunately there was one infant death during the year. The infant mortality rate for the year for England and Wales is 23.0 per 1000 live births; the local rate being 17.5 per 1000 live births.

Table of Causes of Death according to Sex and Mortality Rates

List No.	Cause of Death	Male.	Fe- male.	Per- sons.	Corrected D.R. per 1000 Popln.
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus.	1	-	1	0.223
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast.	-	1	1	0.223
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus.	-	1	1	0.223
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms.	3	1	4	0.892
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system.	3	3	6	1.338
18.	Coronary disease, angina.	3	-	3	0.669
20.	Other heart disease.	6	2	8	1.784
21.	Other circulatory disease.	1	4	5	1.115
23.	Pneumonia	3	-	3	0.669
24.	Bronchitis.	2	-	2	0.446
26.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum.	-	1	1	0.223
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis.	1	1	2	0.446
31.	Congenital malformations.	1	-	1	0.223
32.	Other defined and ill defined diseases.	4	3	7	1.561
34.	All other accidents.	1	-	1	0.223
All Causes		29	17	46	10.258

SECTION E - GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Public Health Laboratory

The facilities available to the District at the Public Health Laboratory, Hereford, remain unchanged.

The following table shows the number of the various specimens examined at the Laboratory on behalf of the Department:-

Milk containers	...	9
Milk (methylene blue test)	...	10
Milk (phosphatase test)	...	10
Water (bacteriological)	...	31
Food (meat pie)	...	1

In addition, 2 samples of water were sent to the Public Analyst for chemical examination.

### Hospital Facilities

General. The Ledbury Cottage Hospital has 12 beds, a surgical theatre and an X-ray apparatus. Both surgical and medical cases are admitted.

The Hospital also provides regular out-patient clinics for the following cases - Surgical, Paediatric, Ophthalmic, Ear, Nose and Throat, Antenatal, Pathology and Physiotherapy.

Infectious Disease. Accommodation is available for cases of infectious disease at the Stretton Sugwas Hospital, Hereford and the County Hospital, Hereford.

### Ambulance Facilities

A motor ambulance is maintained at the Court House Depot by the Home Ambulance Service Joint Committee of the Order of St. John and the British Red Cross Society. This functions as part of the ambulance service provided by the Local Health Authority.

### Home for Aged Persons

The County Council maintains Belle Orchard House, in Orchard Lane, as a Home for aged persons.

### Clinics

Infant Welfare Clinic. An Infant Welfare Clinic is held on alternate Monday afternoons, at the Church Room in Market Street.

Orthopaedic Clinic. A Specialist Clinic is held at the Court House Depot, and treatment facilities are available.

Other Specialist Clinics are held at the Ledbury Cottage Hospital.

### Public Mortuary

The Council provides a public mortuary and post mortem room for the use of the town and surrounding Rural District. Five bodies were received at the mortuary during the year.

### Disposal of the Dead (National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 50)

No burials were carried out by the Council under this section during the year.

### Persons in need of Care and Protection ( National Assistance Act, 1948, Section 47)

No investigations were made under this section during the year.

## SECTION C - SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### Geology

The town is situated on Old Red Sandstone, here represented as marl with bands of sandstone. To the east of the town outcrops of upper silurian rocks occur, chiefly Ludlow and Wenlock limestones.

### Water Supply

The town is supplied chiefly by means of the Council's piped supply, although some private shallow wells remain in use as domestic supplies.

The Council's mains are divided into two systems; a high pressure system supplying the higher parts of the town and a low pressure system for the remainder. These two systems can be connected to supply water from the high pressure system to the low pressure system.

The water for the low pressure system is taken from the Conygree Reservoir (100,000 gallons capacity) and from springs in Conygree Wood. These springs are land springs dependent upon local rainfall.

Water for the high pressure system is obtained from the Massington Well and is pumped to the Cross Hands Reservoir. Continuous automatic chlorination is applied to the rising main, and the pumping station is automatically controlled. As this supply diminishes during dry periods, it is augmented from the mains of the Malvern Urban District Council.

Samples of the town's water supplies were sent for bacteriological examination on 31 occasions; 15 of these were of water in supply and 11 were of good potable quality. Fifteen samples of untreated water were sent for examination - 3 showed a small bacterial count and one was not of good quality and six were sterile.

During 1957, the water supply was inadequate during August and September and from 26th August to 16th September the supply was cut off from midnight until 6 a.m. daily.

Progress was made during the year in augmentation of the supply.

### Drainage

The town has a system of public sewers which function fairly satisfactorily. The sewers are of the combined type, taking storm and foul water, and connect to sewage disposal works. These works are obsolete and are inadequate for the proper treatment of the present quantity of sewage. The Council proposes to construct new sewage disposal works. Consultant Engineers have prepared a scheme which the Minister has approved.

An extension of 345 yards of 12 inch diameter public sewer was constructed during the year.

A temporary scheme of irrigation was brought into use at the sewage disposal works as a means of lessening river pollution.

There were 20 new drains constructed in connection with dwelling houses.

### Public Conveniences

Public conveniences are provided in the centre of the town in Church Lane and in Bye Street. These are suitably situated and are maintained in good condition. Fifty inspections of these premises were made during the year.



### Rivers and Streams

The river Leadon, a tributary of the river Severn, is a boundary of the Urban District. It is a small stream which is prone to flood in winter months. Such floods, at times, involve land used for irrigation at the sewage disposal works.

### Closet Accommodation

About 65% of the dwellings in the town are provided with water closets, whilst the remainder depend upon slop closets. There are approximately 1132 closets in the town; no privies or pail closets are in existence within the District. The proportion of water closets not provided with flushing apparatus is considerable and action to secure improvement is necessary. The number of new water closets provided was 23.

### Public Cleansing

The Council provides a weekly collection of domestic refuse. This is carried out by direct labour with a covered motor refuse vehicle. The Council undertakes the collection of trade refuse on payment of a special charge. Disposal is by partially controlled tipping at the town tip in Jubilee Meadows.

There are no public Baths or Wash-houses situated within the area.

The Surveyor maintains the roads in a cleanly state.

The few cesspools remaining are cleansed by the Council when required, at special charges. No such cleansing was carried out during the year.

Provision of dustbins by occupiers or owners is satisfactory at the present time.

### Camping Sites

No sites were used for camping purposes during the year.

### Swimming Baths

The small open air swimming pool owned by the Council was open to the public during the summer months, on payment. The water is taken from the town mains and a purification plant is provided. The pool has a capacity of about 54,000 gallons. This passes through the purification apparatus every six hours. A sample of the pool water was found on examination to be satisfactory.

### Shops and Offices

No action was necessary by the Department under the Public Health Act, 1936.

### Eradication of Bed Bugs

No infestation of dwellings by bed bugs came to the notice of the Department during the year. The Council undertakes disinfection when necessary with a liquid insecticide.

Common Lodging Houses

There is one common lodging house in the town. This was inspected and conditions found to be satisfactory. No case of infectious disease occurred on the premises during the year and no infestations were found.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area

I am indebted to Mr. J.F. Lorrimer, Public Health Inspector and Surveyor, for the following statement furnished under Article 27 (18) of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935:-

Inspections

Accumulations	...	1
Animals	...	7
Bakehouses	...	3
Burial Grounds	...	50
Common Lodging Houses	...	1
Dairies	...	12
Drainage	...	1
Drain Tests	...	22
Factories(without mechanical power)	...	7
Factories (with mechanical power)	...	38
Food Poisoning	...	1
Food Handling Byelaws & Food Premises	...	41
Housing	...	54
Hotel and Restaurant Kitchens	...	1
Ice Cream (Registered Premises)	...	17
Infectious Disease	...	5
Offensive Trades	...	2
Offensive Smells	...	4
Public Conveniences	...	50
Public Mortuaries	...	2
Petroleum Stores	...	11
Sewage Disposal Works	...	50
Sewers	...	1
Shops	...	41
Sanitary Conveniences	...	5
Slaughterhouses	...	8
Stalls	...	50
Swimming Baths and Pools	...	16
Unsound Food	...	11
Water Supply	...	8

Notices Issued

Informal	...	23
Statutory re Housing	...	1

Summary of Defects Remedied

Accumulations removed	...	1
Cesspools and septic tanks cleansed	...	1
Drains and Gullies cleared	...	1
New drains provided	...	4
Defective roofs repaired	...	2
Defective brickwork repaired	...	2
Disinfections after infectious Disease	...	1
Disinfestations	...	3
Closets repaired	...	1
Flooded premises cleared	...	3
Water supplies provided	...	4

Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948

The number of factories with mechanical power registered with the Council at the end of the year was 38, an increase of 2 on the figure for the previous year, whilst the number without mechanical power remained at 7.

Four building sites were registered with the Council under the Act.

There are no outworkers registered with the Council.

Factory Form 572 (Revised)

Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health in respect of the year 1957, for the Urban District of Ledbury in the County of Hereford.

Part I of Act

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors)

Premises.	Number on Register.	Inspect-ions.	Written Notices.	Occupiers Prosecuted.
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities.	7	7	-	-
Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority.	38	38	-	-
Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	4	4	-	-
Total	49	49	-	-

One defect found in 1956, under Section 7 (Sanitary Conveniences not separate for sexes) remained unabated throughout the year.

Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949

The Council has a part time Rodent Operator who has attended a course of training. Regular inspection has been carried out within the Urban District and the public sewers, disposal works and refuse tip were treated during the year. The Council provides free treatment for domestic premises.



	Premises inspected.	No. of inspect- ions.	Total Infest- ations.	<u>Rats</u>		Mice.	No. of prop- erties treated.
				Major	Minor		
Local Authorities' Properties	3	6	3	1	2	-	3
Dwelling Houses	27	54	27	-	25	2	27
Agricultural Properties.	2	4	2	-	2	-	2
All other (including business) Premises.	6	12	6	-	6	-	6
Total	38	76	38	1	35	2	38

#### SECTION D - HOUSING

The number of Council houses constructed during the year was 7 and 13 were under erection at the end of the year. Private owners completed 4 dwellings and 5 were under construction at the end of the year.

No improvement in overcrowding was secured - 14 dwellings are known to be overcrowded. However, no new cases were reported.

#### Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the Year

1.	Total number of dwellings inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	31
2.	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	1
3.	Number of dwelling houses exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	...	30

#### Houses Demolished or Closed during the Year

1.	Housing Act 1957		
(a)	Demolished as a result of informal or formal procedure under Section 17(1)	...	Nil
(b)	Houses closed under Section 16(4), 17(1) and 35(1)	...	1

#### Unfit Houses made Fit and Houses in which Defects were remedied

	<u>By Owner</u>	<u>By Local Authority</u>
1. (a) After informal action by Local Authority	23	Nil
(b) After formal notice under Public Health Acts	Nil	Nil
(c) After formal notice under Sections 9 and 16 Housing Act 1957	Nil	Nil
(d) Under Section 24, Housing Act 1957	Nil	Nil



Proceedings under Housing Act, 1949. Section 20

The Council made two grants for the improvement of dwellings under this section of the Act.

SECTION E - INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

Milk

The Urban District is a specified Area and only tuberculin tested, pasteurised or sterilised milk can be sold retail within the District.

The number of milk distributors registered with the Council remained at six. Six licences were issued for the sale of pasteurised milk and six for the sale of tuberculin tested milk. The number of dairy inspections made was 12.

There was no evidence at any time during the year of disease having occurred in the population as a result of the consumption of milk. Ten samples of pasteurised milk were sent for methylene blue test and phosphatase test - all complied with the requirements of the tests. In addition, 9 milk containers were sent for bacteriological examination.

The town is fortunate with regard to milk supplies, as there is a milk pasteurisation plant situated in Bridge Street under very capable management. All milk passing through this plant is tuberculin tested milk.

Ice Cream

There are no premises registered for the manufacture of ice cream within the area, but the number registered for the storage and sale of this food is 17. No action was necessary by the Department in connection with these premises - 17 inspections were made.

Water Cress

A small sale of this foodstuff takes place during the season. The plant grows in a number of places adjacent to the town. Cress exposed for sale in the shops is almost always purchased from wholesale suppliers.

Shell Fish

The sale of shellfish in the town is small, and no action was necessary.

Meat

There are four privately owned licensed slaughterhouses in the town and these continued in operation throughout the year.

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned  
in whole or in part

	Cattle excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.	Horses.
Number killed (if known).	325	-	24	1621	827	-
Number inspected.	325	-	24	1621	827	-
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	5	-	-	4	20	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	1.53%	-	-	0.25%	2.4%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	28	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	3.4%	-
<u>Cysticercosis</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Slaughter of Animals Acts, 1933 - 1954. Section 3

Four licences for slaughtermen were granted by the Council during the year, under this section, permitting the slaughter of cattle, sheep and pigs.

Food Poisoning

Two cases of suspected food poisoning were notified during 1957 but no confirmatory evidence was obtained that the symptoms were caused by food poisoning.

Unsound Food

The following list gives the amount of food found to be unfit for human consumption and voluntarily surrendered:-

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Food</u>	<u>Cause of unsoundness</u>
7 tins	Luncheon Meat	Blown tins.
5 tins	Corned Beef	" "
3 tins	Fish	" "
19 tins	Tomatoes	" "
15 tins	Fruit	" "
26 tins	Milk	" "
2 tins	Ham	" "
1 tin	Lambs' Livers	" tin.
1 Stone	Fish	Decomposition
63 lbs.	Beef	Bone Taint.

All unsound food which is surrendered or seized, is buried on the Council's refuse tip.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955, Section 16

Six premises concerned with the manufacture of meat products, three bakeries and two fish frying establishments are registered under this section. The number of inspections made during the year was 20. Conditions of all premises were found to be maintained at a reasonably high standard, and at one food premises new work was completed to comply with the Food Hygiene Regulations 1955.

Byelaws as to Handling, etc. of Food.Food and Drug Act 1955. Section 15

During the year 41 inspections were made in connection with these Byelaws. All food stalls in the market are complying as regards protection, and the markets are regularly inspected.

SECTION F - PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASE

The year 1957 showed a high incidence of acute notifiable infectious disease, as 143 notifications were received, which gives a notification rate of 38.5 per 1000 population. Almost the whole of this incidence was caused by measles.

The Urban District was free from diphtheria, enteric fever, poliomyelitis and dysentery throughout the year.

Confirmed Cases of Infectious Disease in each Quarter

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>1st</u> <u>Quarter.</u>	<u>2nd</u> <u>Quarter.</u>	<u>3rd</u> <u>Quarter.</u>	<u>4th</u> <u>Quarter.</u>	<u>Year.</u>
Whooping Cough.	1	-	1	-	2
Scarlet Fever	-	-	-	1	1
Measles	120	18	-	-	138
Pneumonia	2	-	-	-	2
All Diseases	123	18	1	1	143



Measles

Altogether <sup>138</sup>120 notifications of measles were received, during the first half of the year. After a freedom from the disease extending over four months, measles appeared in the Urban District at the end of January and spread with great rapidity, the second week in March being the period of maximum incidence, as 33 notifications were received during this week. The first quarter of the year gave rise to 120 notifications, thereafter the disease diminished and disappeared before the end of the second quarter.

The last previous occasion on which a rapid spread of measles occurred was in 1953 but in that year the disease was not quite as widespread. The disease was of moderate severity but there were no deaths. The majority of the patients were children under 10 years of age, most being over 5 years old and slightly more females (74) were affected than males (64). The notification rate was 37.2 per 1000 estimated population.

There were 103 households affected, 74 of these each experienced a single case, 28 others each experienced 2 or 3 cases and one family had four cases. A clear history of contact with a previous case was obtained in 29 cases.

Whooping Cough

The Urban District was unusually free from whooping cough during 1957, as only two cases were notified, neither being connected in any way. The local notification rate for whooping cough for the year was 0.54 per 1000 estimated population.

Scarlet Fever

Only one case of scarlet fever occurred. This was nursed at home.

Acute Pneumonia

Only two notifications of acute pneumonia were received. Three deaths were attributed to pneumonia, giving a mortality rate for this disease of 0.67 per 1000 estimated population.

<u>Infectious Disease according to certain Age Groups</u>												All
Disease	0+	1+	2+	3+	4+	5+	10+	15+	25+	45+	65+	Ages
Whooping Cough.	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	2
Scarlet Fever.	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Measles.	1	6	65	12	9	100	2	1	1	1	-	138
Pneumonia.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	2

Other Diseases

Towards the end of the third quarter of the year, influenza appeared in the population but finally disappeared before the end of the year.

The efficiency of notification is quite good, and the notifications received give a reliable picture of the infection in the population. I have to acknowledge the co-operation of the medical practitioners in the area.

### Tuberculosis

At the beginning of the year there were 26 cases on the register (25 respiratory and 1 non-respiratory). During the year no cases were added to the register. Two cases of respiratory disease were removed from the register, 1 case being regarded as having recovered. At the end of the year, therefore, the number on the Register was 24 (23 respiratory disease and 1 non-respiratory disease).

No deaths were attributed to tuberculosis. The death rate from all forms of tuberculosis for England and Wales for 1957 was 0.107 per 1000 population.

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